

Fam. PSITTACIDÆ.

Amongst the Parrots are several specimens of a *Conurus* resembling in every respect *C. holochlorus*, except that the chin and upper throat are scarlet. It thus becomes *C. rubritorquis*, Sel., described from a menagerie specimen from an unknown locality (P. Z. S. 1886, p. 538, pl. 56). In his recent Catalogue of the Psittaci, Count Salvadori (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xx. p. 190) has placed this name as a synonym of *C. holochlorus*; but now that we find the distinctive character localized in this part of Central America, this verdict must be reconsidered.

ACCIPITRES.

A pair of an *Accipiter* agree precisely with a Venezuelan example of *A. salvini* (Ridgway), but it is questionable whether this form is really distinct from *A. chionogaster* (Kp.).

COLUMBÆ.

A specimen of *Geotrygon albigacies* agrees exactly with Mexican and Guatemalan examples, and proves that the species has a wider southern extension than has been hitherto supposed. *Columba fasciata* is also represented.

GALLINÆ.

A female specimen of a *Penelopina* may belong to *P. nigra*, but more specimens are necessary to decide whether this is so, or whether it should be referred to a distinct species. Anyhow, this is the first instance of the genus *Penelopina* being recorded outside the limits of Guatemala.

XXVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 179.]

28. *Barboza du Bocage on the Birds of St. Thomas, West Africa.*

[Oiseaux de l'Île St. Thomé. Par J. V. Barboza du Bocage. Journ. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa, 2^a ser. no. 6, p. 77, 1891.]

M. F. Newton visited several localities in the Island of

St. Thomas, which lies nearly under the line, on the west coast of Africa, in 1890, and obtained examples of 44 species of birds, which are enumerated in this paper*. *Lanius (Fiscus) newtoni* is described as new. Besides these 44 species, 14 others are known to be found on this island, so that the avifauna embraces at least 58 species. Of these several are restricted to the island.

29. Bendire on Collecting Birds' Eggs.

[Directions for Collecting, Preparing, and Preserving Birds' Eggs and Nests. By Charles Bendire. Part D of Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 29.]

This is an excellent companion to Mr. Ridgway's Directions for collecting birds, of which we have already spoken (see above, p. 175). It has been prepared by one of the leading American authorities on the subject, and cannot fail to be useful to oologists in every country. The author commences, we are pleased to see, with insisting on the primary importance of the careful identification of all specimens of eggs, a point not always sufficiently considered, we fear, by young collectors.

30. Blasius on Birds at the German Light-Station.

[Vogelleben an den Deutschen Leuchthürmen, 1885-1890. Von Professor Dr. Rudolf Blasius. 8vo. Wien: 1891. Pp. 248.]

Dr. R. Blasius sends us a set of his reports on the birds met with at the German light-stations in the Baltic and on the coast of the North Sea, altogether 40 in number, which deserve a few lines of commendation. The first report published was for 1885—those for 1889 and 1890 are given in the last article. They contain a mass of information about our migratory species, which, however, will become more generally available when some sort of analysis or *résumé* is made of them. This will, no doubt, ultimately be done.

* Cf. notices of previous papers on this subject, *Ibis*, 1888, p. 361, and 1890, p. 248.

31. *Buller on rare Birds of New Zealand.*

[An Exhibition of New and Interesting Forms of New-Zealand Birds, with Remarks thereon. By Sir Walter L. Buller. Trans. and Proc. New-Zealand Inst. xxiii. p. 36, 1891.]

Sir Walter Buller has adopted the excellent plan of exhibiting at the Meetings of the Wellington Philosophical Society specimens of rare and remarkable birds of the avifauna of New Zealand, on which he is our leading authority, and of reading notes on their peculiarities, thus keeping our knowledge of the birds of New Zealand up to date. In the present communication on this subject we have notes on *Miro traversi*, *Sphenæacus fulvus*, *Larus novæ-hollandiæ*, *Ocydromus earlii*, *Æstrelata mollis*, *Æ. affinis*, and other rare species. *Puffinus zealandicus*, Sandager, is stated to be the same as *P. bulleri*, Salvin. A thirteenth species of New-Zealand Penguin has been discovered, but not yet identified.

32. *Buller on a new Albatross.*

[On the Wandering Albatross: with an Exhibition of Specimens, and the Determination of a new Species (*Diomedea regia*). By Sir Walter L. Buller. Trans. and Proc. New-Zealand Inst. xxiii. p. 230, 1891.]

Sir Walter Buller has come to a conclusion that the belief he has long entertained that two large Albatrosses of the New-Zealand seas have been confounded under the name *D. exulans* is undoubtedly correct. He now proposes to call the one distinguishable by its larger size and white head and neck *D. regia*. Both species breed in the Auckland Islands, but in separate spots, and not quite at the same season. Sixteen specimens of the new species "of both sexes and of all ages" have been examined.

33. *Bund on the Birds of Worcestershire.*

[A List of the Birds of Worcestershire and the adjoining Counties. By J. W. Willis Bund, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. 8vo. Worcester: 1891. Pp. 53.]

As in many other cases, the boundaries of Worcestershire by no means coincide with the areas of distribution of the birds of that county. Mr. Willis Bund has therefore in-

cluded Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire in his subject. Within these limits the presence of only 200 species of birds has been as yet recorded, but more, no doubt, remain to be added. We agree with the author that the alleged occurrence of the Abyssinian Roller in Great Britain is exceedingly doubtful, and we are not surprised that the compilers of the B. O. U. List did not even allude to it.

34. *Butler on the Birds of Indiana.*

[The Birds of Indiana, with Illustrations of many of the Species. Prepared for the Indiana Horticultural Society, and originally published in its Transactions for 1890. By Amos W. Butler. 8vo. Brookville: 1891. Pp. 135.]

This is a list of the birds of Indiana, originally published as an appendix to the 'Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society' for 1890. It is illustrated with woodcuts taken from Coues's 'Key.' The Act of the General Assembly of the State "for the protection of Birds, their nests and eggs," is prefixed, also a Bibliography of previous works on the subject. The arrangement and nomenclature are that of the code of the A. O. U. The recognized species of birds of Indiana are 305, besides 79 "hypothetical."

35. *Büttikofer on Birds from Flores, Samao, and Timor.*

[On a Collection of Birds from Flores, Samao, and Timor. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xiii. p. 210.]

Mr. Büttikofer gives us an account of a small collection of birds made in the islands of Flores, Samao, and Timor by Dr. H. ten Kate. They are referred to 29 species. *Tropidorhynchus neglectus*, from Flores, Sumbawa, and (probably) Lombok, is separated, as a new species, from *T. timoriensis*.

36. *Chapman on the Avifauna of the Bahamas.*

[The Origin of the Avifauna of the Bahamas. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Nat. 1891, p. 528.]

Mr. Chapman discusses the avifauna of the Bahamas in a

very complete and exhaustive manner. There are 54 species and subspecies of land-birds known to breed in the Bahamas, to which may be added two species of water-birds restricted to the group. These 56 birds are divisible into two categories, the first (32) being those of general distribution, and the second (24) those peculiar to the Bahamas. After a full consideration of these birds, especially of the latter class, and of the sources whence they appear to have been derived, Mr. Chapman shows that the Bahaman avifauna is comparatively of recent origin, and has been mainly derived from Cuba. "The Bahamas," he says, "are largely West-Indian in their affinities, and may claim the rank of a fauna of the Antillean Region (*lege* Subregion), characterized by the presence of forms different from their West-Indian ancestry, and by the infusion of a slight Floridan element."

37. *Chapman on the Tail-coverts of Colaptes auratus.*

[On the Color-Pattern of the Upper Tail-Coverts in *Colaptes auratus*. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. iii. p. 311.]

Mr. Chapman calls attention to the wide range of variation shown in the colour-pattern of the upper tail-coverts in *Colaptes auratus*. Similar variations occur in the other species of the genus, but a larger series of specimens is required before this can be properly shown. *Chrysoptilus* shows its relationship to *Colaptes* in having the tail-coverts similarly barred, and corresponding variations appear to occur in other genera.

38. *Chapman on Birds from Texas.*

[On the Birds observed near Corpus Christi, Texas, during parts of March and April 1891. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. iii. p. 315.]

The present paper is designed to supplement one on the same subject by the late Mr. Beckham, which appeared in 1887 (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. x. p. 633). Beckham gave a list of 139 species of birds to be met with near Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman made notes and collections in the dis-

strict round that city in March and April 1891 for the American Museum of Natural History. He found birds abundant both in species and individuals. Of the 190 odd species observed, at least 85 were common, but the "demand for birds for millinery purposes" has sadly thinned their ranks. A flock of 200 specimens of *Larus franklini* was seen on April 24th. *Cardinalis cardinalis canicaudus* is described as a new subspecies from S.W. Texas and N.E. Mexico. The species and subspecies added to Beckham's list were upwards of sixty.

39. *Cheeseman on the Birds of the Kermadec Islands.*

[On the Birds of the Kermadec Islands. By T. F. Cheeseman. Trans. and Proc. New-Zealand Inst. xxiii. p. 216, 1891.]

The Kermadec Islands lie in the Pacific Ocean, some 250 miles north-east of New Zealand. In a previous paper on this subject Mr. Cheeseman gave the names of 22 species of birds as found there. He now raises the total to 40. The land-birds of the Kermadecs are, without exception, also found in New Zealand, and the sea-birds are either met with in the New-Zealand seas or "are common on the coasts of Australia or Polynesia." There are no endemic species, and not more than 12 or 15 permanent residents. It would seem, however, that a Megapode (*Megapodius* sp. inc.) formerly inhabited the crater of the volcano in Sunday Island, one of the group.

40. *Cherrie on new Costa-Rican Birds.*

[Description of new Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Birds from Costa Rica. By George K. Cherrie. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 337.]

Mr. Cherrie describes, principally from specimens contained in a small collection of birds brought by him from Costa Rica, the following new species and subspecies:—*Lophotriccus squamicrostus minor*, *L. zeledoni*, *Pachyrhamphus ornatus*, *Deconychura typica* (a new genus and species of Dendrocolaptidæ allied to *Sittasomus* and *Glyphorhynchus*), *Vireo superciliaris*, *Basileuterus salvini* (from Guatemala) = *B. delatarii*, auctt. nec Bp, *Grallaria lizanoi*, *Pachyrhamphus*

similis (named hypothetically), *Arremon aurantirostris saturatus* (also named hypothetically), and *Myrmeciza intermedia*. Besides these a new genus (*Premnoplex*) is instituted for *Margarornis brunnescens*.

41. Cherrie's Notes on Costa-Rican Birds.

[Notes on Costa-Rican Birds. By George K. Cherrie. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 517.]

In the present paper Mr. Cherrie gives a series of critical notes upon the remainder of the collection from which the new species were described, as recorded in the previous paper. Amongst the rarities mentioned are examples of *Vireo pallens*, and of *Myrmeciza stictoptera* of Lawrence, a species unfortunately overlooked by the compiler of the 15th volume of the B. M. Catalogue! *Picolaptes gracilis*, Ridgway, is believed to be hardly different from *P. compressus*; but see Ridgway himself on this point.

42. Forbes on the Date of Extinction of the Moa.

[Notes on the Disappearance of the Moa. By H. O. Forbes. Trans. and Proc. New-Zealand Inst. xxiii. p. 373, 1891.]

Mr. Forbes has recently explored a cavern near Sumner, Canterbury, New Zealand, and has found fragments of the eggs of *Dinornis* in the kitchen-middens of its former occupants, together with objects undoubtedly made by Maoris. He concludes that the Maoris ate the Moa's eggs for food, and consequently agrees with those authorities who believe that the Moa was *not* extinct when the Maoris arrived in New Zealand.

43. Frivaldszky on the Birds of Hungary.

[Aves Hungariæ. Enumeratio Systematica Avium Hungariæ, cum notis brevibus biologicis, locis inventionis virorumque a quibus oriuntur. E mandato Commissionis Hungariæ Secundi Ornithologorum Universalis Congressus conscripsit Joannes Frivaldszky. 8vo. Budapestini: 1891. Pp. 197.]

This is a catalogue of the 325 known species of the birds of Hungary, with short Latin notes on their exact localities

and modes of occurrence, prepared specially for the International Congress at Budapest. After each species is added a list of the specimens of it in the National Hungarian Museum at Budapest, with occasional references to those in other collections.

44. *Jäckel and Blasius on the Birds of Bavaria.*

[Systematische Uebersicht der Vögel Bayerns, mit Rücksicht auf das örtliche und quantitative Vorkommen der Vögel, ihre Lebensweise, ihren Zug und ihre Abänderungen. Von Andreas Johannes Jäckel. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Rudolf Blasius. 8vo. München und Leipzig: 1891. Pp. 392.]

Andreas Johannes Jäckel, who died in 1885, was a well-known worker on the Birds of Bavaria, and author of numerous papers and memoirs on its ornithology. The present work, which contains a *résumé* of all his previous contributions to the ornis of Bavaria in one complete volume, was finished ready for the press in 1882, but received corrections and additions up to the date of his last illness. It is now published as a worthy memorial to an indefatigable and excellent naturalist, under the editorship of his friend Dr. Rudolf Blasius, who commences the volume by a portrait and memoir of the author.

According to Jäckel's observations the avifauna of Bavaria contains 312 species, of which many interesting particulars are given as regards their habits, modes of occurrence, and variations in the kingdom of Bavaria.

45. *MacFarlane on Birds and Eggs from Arctic America.*

[Notes on and List of Birds and Eggs collected in Arctic America, 1861-1866. By R. MacFarlane, F.R.G.S. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 413.]

This is a very interesting series of notes on the birds met with from April 1862 to June 1866 in the district of Fort Anderson, a former Hudson's Bay Co.'s station on the right bank of the Anderson River (lat. 68° 30' N., long. 128° W.), now abandoned. The nomenclature and arrangement are those of the A. O. U. Check-list. Here, during

the breeding-season, *Colymbus adamsi* "abounds"; "quite a large number" of nests of *Xema sabinii* were found, and numerous nests of *Calcarius lapponicus* and *C. pictus* were obtained. *Chordeiles virginianus* occurs as an occasional straggler.

46. *Menzbier and Severtzow on the Ornithology of Turkestan.*

[Dr. N. A. Severtzow. Ornithologie du Turkestan et des Pays adjacents. Par M. le Docteur M. A. Menzbier. Livr. 3. Text and Atlas. Folio. Moscou: 1891.]

The third livraison of this interesting, but somewhat slowly progressing, work was issued last year, and continues the account of the Diurnal Raptores, amongst which several forms almost unknown to European ornithologists are introduced. *Hierofalco altaicus*, so far as we are aware, now described for the first time, is said to be allied to *H. labradorus*. The species figured in the accompanying "Atlas" are *Circus spilonotus*, *Scops brucei*, *Calliope pectoralis*, and *Otis dybowskii*.

47. *Merriam on Birds from Idaho.*

[Results of a Biological Reconnaissance of South-Central Idaho. Annotated List of Birds, with Description of a new Owl. By Dr. C. Hart Merriam. North-American Fauna, no. 5, p. 89.]

Idaho is not a familiar name to ornithologists, and our information relating to its natural history generally is so scanty that our friend Dr. Merriam did well in selecting it for a "biological reconnaissance" in 1890. What a pleasant trip he must have had, accompanied by his chief field-naturalist and two assistants! What would *our* Treasury say if Prof. Flower were to ask them to send four naturalists and suite on a "biological reconnaissance" to Mount Dinkit or Mount Kenia or some other *terra incognita* within the "British sphere of influence"? We will not, however, indulge in envy, but will congratulate Dr. Merriam on his good fortune, and express a hope that many more reconnoissances of the same description may be authorized. Dr. Merriam's report relates principally to mammals, to

which he appears to have devoted special attention. But it contains an "Annotated List of Birds," and in this is a description of a new subspecies of "Dwarf Screech-Owl," proposed to be called "*Megascops flammeolus** (sic!) *idahoensis*," founded on a single specimen.

48. Meyer on Birds from New Guinea and New Britain.

[Ueber Vögel von Neu-Guinea und Neu-Britannien. Von A. B. Meyer. Abhandl. k. zool. u. anthrop. Mus. Dresden, 1890-91, no. 4.]

The subjects of this essay are selected from collections made in New Guinea and New Britain by the well-known naturalist Kubary and the brothers Geisler, and forwarded to the Dresden Museum. Among 89 birds included in the list, 12 species and subspecies are characterized as new to science. These are *Geoffroyus orientalis*, *Lorius salvadorii*, *Tanysiptera galatea rubiensis*, *Monarcha melanonotus aurantiacus*, *Graucalus stephani*, *Rhectes brunneicaudus*, *Elurædus geislerorum*, *Carpophaga zoeæ orientalis*, *C. westermanni astrolabiensis*, *Megapodius brunneiventris*, *Talegallus longicaudus*, and *Porphyrio neobritannicus*. All these new forms are from Kaiser-Willhelm's-land, except the *Tanysiptera*, which was obtained at Rubi, in the Bay of Geelvink, and the *Porphyrio*, which is from New Britain. Critical notes and exact localities are given concerning the remaining species. The memoir is of a like nature with, and supplementary to, the paper by the same author published in this Journal for 1890 ('Ibis,' 1890, p. 412).

49. North on Australian Nests and Eggs.

[Supplement to the Catalogue of "Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania." By A. J. North. Records of the Austr. Mus. vol. i. no. 6. Sydney: 1891.]

In these notes the nesting of several interesting species is

* "*Flammeola*" is a substantive—a diminutive of "*flamma*." There is no such word in Latin as "*flammeolus*." Even according to the principles of the A. O. U. (which decline to conform to the recognized rules of grammar), it would be incorrect to make this change, as Kaup called the typical species *Scops flammeola*. (See Trans. Zool. Soc. iv. p. 226.)

described for the first time. Well-identified eggs of the Cat-bird (*Elurædus viridis*) have now been obtained, former specimens referred to this species having turned out to be non-authentic. The breeding-places of the Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis strictipennis*) in the Polygonum-bushes in the interior of New South Wales have been visited and their eggs collected. The nests and eggs of *Elurædus viridis* and *Sphecotheres maxillaris* are figured.

50. *Pycraft on Malformations of the Bill in Birds.*

[Notes on some Malformations of the Bill in Birds. By W. F. Pycraft. 8vo. Leicester: 1891. Pp. 12. Reprinted from the Trans. Leicester Lit. & Phil. Soc. iii. pt. 8.]

This is a well-written essay upon a subject which has, as yet, scarcely been treated, except in a desultory way, and is quite worthy of perusal. We cannot, however, agree in the author's objections to the use of the terms "upper and lower mandible" as applied to birds. No doubt they are not quite correct, but they are sanctioned by long usage, very convenient, and quite unmistakable.

51. *Reiser on the Birds of the Museum of Sarajevo.*

[Die Vogelsammlung des bosnisch-hercegovinischen Landesmuseums in Sarajevo. Enthaltend die während der Jahre 1887-1891 gesammelte Avifauna des Occupations-Gebietes. Bearbeitet von Custos O. Reiser. 8vo. Budapest: 1891. Pp. 148.]

The advance made by Bosnia and Herzegovina since their delivery from the grasp of the Turk is well shown by the Museum of Sarajevo, which, as will be seen by the memoir now before us, already possesses a fine and well-arranged collection of the birds of the "occupied" provinces. The 268 species hitherto recorded as having been met with within their limits are represented by 1718 specimens, of which a list, with localities and authorities, is given by Herr Custos Reiser.

52. *Ridgway on a new Goatsucker.*

[Description of a new Species of Whippoorwill from Costa Rica. By R. Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 465.]

Mr. Ridgway describes a new species of *Antrostomus* from Costa Rica under the name *A. rufo-maculatus*. It agrees with *A. vociferus* in size and proportions, but seems to come somewhat near *A. sericeo-caudatus* in coloration. Mr. Salvin informs us that Mr. Ridgway has recently sent him for inspection the type of this species, and that it proves to be identical with his *Antrostomus saturatus* (P. Z. S. 1870, p. 203).

53. *Ridgway on new and rare Birds from Honduras.*

[Notes on some Birds from the Interior of Honduras. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 467.]

From specimens in a collection of nearly two hundred birds from the interior of Honduras recently acquired by the U.S. National Museum, Mr. Ridgway characterizes as new subspecies *Platypsaris aglaie hypophæa* and *Pithys bicolor olivascens*. He also describes the female of *Gymnocichla chiroleuca*, and records the occurrence of other species not previously known in this locality.

54. *Ridgway's 'Notes on some Costa Rica Birds.'*

[Notes on some Costa Rica Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 473.]

These notes are based upon a small collection of birds sent by the Director of the Costa-Rica National Museum, Dr. Anastasio Alfaro, to Mr. Ridgway. The young of several interesting species are described, amongst them a specimen of a *Picolaptes*, which shows that in all probability *P. gracilis* is only the young of the well-known *P. compressus*.

The new birds described are *Platypsaris aglaie* and *Scytalopus argentifrons*, the latter introducing a new species and a new family into the Central-American ornith.

55. *Ridgway on Pachyrhamphus albinucha.*

[Note on *Pachyrhamphus albinucha*, Burmeister. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 479.]

Mr. Ridgway has made a very interesting discovery. In the stores of the U.S. National Museum he has found a specimen of the *Pachyrhamphus albinucha* of Burmeister, described by that author in 1868 (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 635), but since absolutely overlooked. This curious form has a pycnaspidian tarsus, and must consequently belong to the Cotingidæ, being probably most nearly allied to *Casiornis*. Mr. Ridgway proposes the new generic term *Xenopsaris* for it. It is found, according to Dr. Burmeister, in the sedge of the shores of the Rio de la Plata*.

56. *Ridgway on two new Thamnophili.*

[Description of two supposed new Forms of *Thamnophilus*. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 481.]

Mr. Ridgway characterizes two new species of *Thamnophilus* from specimens in the U.S. National Museum. These are *T. albicrissus* and *T. trinitatis*. The last is certainly from Trinidad, the first apparently so.

57. *Ridgway on a new Ammodramus.*

[Description of a new Sharp-tailed Sparrow from California. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 483.]

A new subspecies is described as *Ammodramus caudacutus becki*, from Santa Clara county, California.

58. *Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradiseidæ.'*

[Monograph of the Paradiseidæ, or Birds of Paradise, and Ptilonorhynchidæ, or Bower-Birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part I. Folio. London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1891.]

The first part of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's new monograph of

* Since this notice was written we have observed that Dr. Cabanis (Allg. deutsche Gesellsch. Berlin, Bericht ix. p. 4) has proposed another generic term (*Prospoietus*) for the same bird, which he considers to belong to the Tyrannidæ, near *Serpophaga*.

the Paradise-birds is now before us, and contains ten plates. Amongst these many old friends from Gould's works are recognizable, but several of the illustrations are new, and both sexes of *Prionidura newtoniana*—a remarkable form of Bower-bird from Queensland*—are now figured for the first time.

Tectonornis is proposed as a new generic name for *Scenopæus denti-rostris*, in consequence of *Scenopæus* being preoccupied. The following species are figured:—

<i>Lycocorax pyrrhopterus.</i>	<i>Paradisea apoda.</i>
<i>Parotia lawesi.</i>	<i>Prionodura newtoniana.</i>
<i>Ciccinnurus regius.</i>	<i>Xanthomelus aureus.</i>
<i>Craspedophora magnifica.</i>	<i>Chlamydodera orientalis.</i>
<i>Epimachus meyeri.</i>	<i>Tectonornis denti-rostris.</i>

59. Sharpe on the Birds of Yarkand.

[Scientific Results of the Second Yarkand Mission; based upon the Collections and Notes of the late Ferdinand Stoliczka, Ph.D. Aves. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Published by order of the Government of India. Folio. London: 1891.]

After a long delay, caused mainly by unavoidable circumstances, we have before us a complete and satisfactory account of the ornithological collections formed by the late Dr. Ferdinand Stoliczka during the Second Yarkand Expedition of 1873-74. Stoliczka, it will be recollected, died under somewhat tragic circumstances on his way back from Yarkand to India on this expedition†. The collections that he made were placed in Mr. Hume's hands, and Mr. Hume, we are told, had actually prepared an account of them, which was unfortunately destroyed while still in MS. The collections were ultimately brought to England along with the great Hume Collection by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, to whose unwearied exertions we are now indebted for the present memoir. In order to increase the value of the report, Dr. Sharpe has included in his list all the species of which specimens were obtained by Dr. Henderson during the first Yarkand Expedition, and

* Cf. Ibis, 1890, p. 264.

† See 'Nature,' vol. x. p. 185 (1874)

by Dr. Scully during the second expedition, and has added extracts from Colonel Biddulph's field-notes, which were communicated in MS. to Mr. Hume. We have, therefore, in the present volume a pretty full account of the avifauna of Yarkand, or Eastern Turkestan, so far as our present knowledge extends.

The total number of birds recorded in this work is 350, of which no less than 214 are Passeres. Amongst these, as might be expected, the characteristic genera *Montifringilla*, *Emberiza*, *Otocorys*, *Phylloscopus*, *Saxicola*, and *Accentor* are well represented. Three species of *Podoces*, one of *Leptophecile*, and one of *Chimarrhornis**, all types peculiar to this subdivision of the Palearctic avifauna, were met with. *Hierofalco milvipes* is now recognized as a valid species, distinct from *H. sacer*.

We have, however, one fault to find with the volume. This is that there is no explicit distinction made in it between the species pertaining to the Yarkand avifauna and those belonging only to Kashmir and the rest of the Indian territory traversed by the Expedition on its way up. At first sight one would naturally suppose that members of the families Megalæmidæ, Indicatoridæ, and Psittacidæ, being registered in the present list, are found in Yarkand. But this is by no means the case. On inspecting the exact localities, which are in every case properly stated, it will be observed that *Indicator xanthonotus*, *Megalæma marshallorum*, and *Palæornis schisticeps* were met at places in Kashmir or Ladakh, and not in Yarkand. It would, in our opinion, have been much better to have arranged the Cis-Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan specimens under two different heads, and thus to have avoided all risk of making confusion between two very different ornithogeographic areas. At any rate "Kashmir" or "Ladakh" should have been added after the localities in the Trans-Himalayan district. A still better plan would have been to show the track of the Expedition on a map, and thus indicate the localities exactly. Some of them, as given in the present work, are not to be found in any atlas.

* Dr. Sharpe now writes this name "*Chæmarrhornis*," which is incorrect, the derivation being χεῦμαρρῶς, a brook, in Latin *chimarrhus*.

The following species are well figured in this work :—*Hierofalco gyrfalco*, *Scops brucii*, *Carine bactriana*, *Podoces biddulphi*, *Rhodopechys sanguinea*, *Carpodacus stoliczkæ*, *Ægithalus coronatus*, *Leptopæcile sophiæ*, *Tribura major*, *Phylloscopus tytleri*, *Cettia orientalis*, *Dendrocopus leucopterus* (two plates), *Turtur stoliczkæ*, and *Tetraogallus himalayensis*.

In a supplement are added some plates prepared by Mr. Hume for a projected work on the 'Avifauna of the British Indian Empire,' but perhaps a little out of place here, as the species represented are not found in Yarkand. They represent *Hierofalco saker*, *Scops balli*, *Carine pulchra*, *Heteroglaux blewitti*, *Garrulus leucotis*, and *Cyanops incognita*.

60. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Water-birds.*

[Contributions to the Comparative Osteology of Arctic and Subarctic Water-birds. Part IX. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S., &c. Journ. Anat. & Physiol. xxv. p. 509.]

In the ninth of his series of memoirs on arctic and subarctic Water-birds (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1891, p. 287), Dr. Shufeldt diverges somewhat from his subject to study *Chionis* and compare it with the Gulls and Plovers. The sternum of *Chionis* is more like that of *Hæmatopus* than that of the Laridæ, and such is also the case with the pelvis and pectoral and pelvic limbs. On the whole *Chionis* has its "nearest living allies" in *Hæmatopus* and in "such forms as *Glareola*."

61. *Shufeldt on Tertiary Fossil Birds from N. America.*

[Tertiary Fossils of North-American Birds. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D. Auk, viii. p. 365.]

Dr. Shufeldt has examined an extensive series of remains of fossil birds from the Silver-Lake region of South-western Oregon, and has been able to identify 51 species, of which 13 appear to be new to science. He now gives a preliminary account of the collection, which contains altogether some 1500 specimens, mostly water-birds (*Gaviæ*, *Steganopodes*, *Anseres*, *Herodiones*, and *Limicolæ*), and promises a quarto memoir on the subject later on.

62. *Stone on the Species of Molothrus.*

[A Revision of the Species of *Molothrus* allied to *M. bonariensis* (Gm.). By Witmer Stone. Auk, viii. p. 344.]

Mr. Stone has attempted to solve the problems of the number and proper names of the species of *Molothrus* allied to *M. bonariensis*, and has certainly thrown some light on this difficult subject. An examination of the specimens of Icteridæ in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has shown that Cassin's supposed *Lamprosar tanagrinus* and *L. guianensis* are both referable to *Molothrus atronitens*, Cab., and that Cassin's *Lamprosar cabanisi* is the same as what is usually called *Molothrus cassini*. Finally Mr. Stone recognizes five species of this group of *Molothrus*, and proposes a new name (*M. venezuelensis*) for *M. discolor* of Cassin (non *Passerina discolor*, Vieill.).

63. *Suchetet on Wild-bred Hybrids.*

[Les Oiseaux Hybrides rencontrés à l'état sauvage. Par André Suchetet. Deuxième Partie: Les Palmipèdes. Mém. Soc. Zool. France, iv. p. 109.]

M. Suchetet describes in this memoir the hybrids bred in a free state that have been recorded among the Anatidæ, Laridæ, Ardeidæ, and Charadriidæ. The greater part of the memoir is, as was to be expected, taken up by the Anatidæ, amongst which, as is well known, cross-breeding is more prevalent than in any other group, except, perhaps, the Gallinæ. M. Suchetet records 24 cases, but we are not sure that he has quite exhausted the list. In the Laridæ only one instance of hybridization is registered, namely *Sterna paradisea* × *S. hirundo*. Amongst the Ardeidæ (referred by M. Suchetet to the Gruidæ!) there is likewise one case, *Ardea cinerea* × *A. purpurea*, and among the Charadriidæ also a single instance, *Hæmatopus unicolor* × *H. longirostris*.

64. *Winge on Birds observed at the Danish Light-Station.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1890. 8de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Medd. naturh. Foren. Kjøbhvn. 1891, p. 61.]

This is the eighth of a series of yearly reports on the birds

met with at the numerous light-stations on the Danish coasts and islands, of which a clearly drawn chart is appended. In 1890 examples of 68 species were observed. Full details are given of all these occurrences, and the whole subject is completely elaborated.

65. *Zaroudnoï on the Birds of Trans-Caspia.*

[Recherches Zoologiques dans la Contrée Trans-Caspienne. Par N. Zaroudnoï. Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 1889-90.]

After a lengthened description of his journeyings during his third expedition into Trans-Caspia, M. Zaroudnoï gives a systematic list with notes of the Vertebrates met with and collected. The birds were of 309 species. We observe that the Pheasants mentioned are *Ph. persicus* and *Ph. principalis*, of which the areas are now succinctly described.

XXVIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, and Obituary.*

THE following letters, addressed to the Editor, have been received since our last issue :—

SIR,—In my recent paper on *Ptilopus* (Ibis, 1891, pp. 566-584) there is a statement which I beg leave to correct. At p. 577, a distinguishing point of the adult *P. fasciatus*, Peale, is said to be “a deep magenta patch *in middle of abdomen*.” This is, I think, a wrong inference of mine from the statements of various writers. After examining the series of this Pigeon in the museums at Hamburg and South Kensington, I find that there never exists a patch distinct from the broad line of blackish mentioned by me as a second characteristic, but that this line spreads out in some specimens so as to form a patch, while in others it remains a slight short bar. The rich magenta colour which it assumes, darker than that of the crown, is, I believe, a mark of maturity.

Yours &c.,

L. W. WIGLESWORTH.

London,
December 15th, 1891.